

ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE TEACHER EDUCATION

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President's Newsletter Message Janice Koch, ASTE President

An Auspicious Beginning for 2007 ASTE



It is a pleasure to greet you in the first newsletter of 2007 and share some of the accomplishments from our January conference in Clearwater, Florida and provide some indications of what lies ahead as we forge our agenda for the coming year. The Clearwater conference experienced record attendance with a reported registration of 585 people. Our current membership is up to 737 and we are encouraged and excited by the growth in our organization and the conference participation. There is already a movement underfoot to return to Clearwater again in a few years. Anyone interested in chairing the event again in Clearwater?

Our website will be transformed this year as it moves to a commercial server, under the guidance of Eugene Wagner, our Executive Secretary and Webmaster. Meanwhile, do check out the new link to the Japanese Society for the Teaching of Science and to our other affiliate organizations, NSTA, NARST, CSSP and the Triangle Coalition. Remember, as well, that you can use the "find a member" link on our website to locate contact information for an ASTE member.

... fellow ASTE members, our work is cut out for us as we seek to educate those who would inspire the future scientists and engineers.

The Clearwater conference witnessed the growth of two sectors of our community and the transformation of the International Ad-hoc Committee to the International Region. The new forum that was created in Clearwater is the Environmental Education Forum chaired by Alec Bodzin of Lehigh University and Beth Klein of the State University of New York (SUNY) at Cortland. Peter Veronesi from SUNY Cortland facilitated group discussions on Global Warming while John Settlege of the University of Connecticut demonstrated a participatory approach to conference presentations through the Crossroads model. Rooms were full, attendance at sessions was high and new ideas flourished.

In response to the science and public policy issues that have been raised

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through the work of ASTE Past President Kathy Norman and others, Regina Toolin of the University of Vermont and Joseph Shane from Shippensburg University started an ASTE Ad-hoc committee on Policy and Government relations.

The Goals for the Policy and Government Relations Ad-hoc Committee are included here as they reflect a continuation of our important agenda to impact national science education policy:

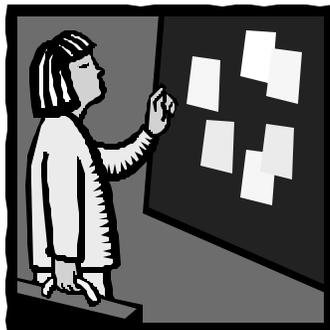
- To inform business and government stakeholders about science education research and practices related to teaching, learning, curriculum and assessment for the purpose of integrating what is known about science education research with current national policy goals.
- To become more informed about and active in the national educational policy process as it relates to science education.
- To foster collaborations with other science education organizations in order to increase our presence and strengthen our voice on national science education policy issues.

On January 19-21, 2007, Partners Health Care, an integrated health system founded by Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital sponsored a free conference *Science and Society: Closing the Gap* in Boston. The conference keynote speakers were former Vice President Al Gore and Shirley Ann Jackson, President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Among the very important points made throughout the two day event was the significance of finding ways to reduce the increased tension between science and society. The biggest gap that adults have in their scientific knowledge, it was noted, is not that they have forgotten the details of the structure of DNA, it is rather that they do not know what science is about- its methods, limits, benefits, perils and pitfalls. Nowhere is that clearer than in the controversy surrounding global climate change. Further, the flood of data in this Age of Information overwhelms adults due to the volume and the lack of clarity about its origins. People are unclear of what to believe and are numbed by the sheer overload. Vice President Gore affirmed the need for a science-based mass persuasion campaign and for those among us who have seen *An Inconvenient Truth*, we notice that the findings are communicated in clearly understood language.

One responsibility of our growing organization is to assume more active roles in helping policy makers understand the scientific underpinnings of the civic issues we need to address. In a new national survey, more than half of Americans (52%) don't believe the U.S. is performing well in science and math education compared to other nations, but they know science is very important (85%), according to a recent poll commissioned by Research!America (www.researchamerica.org). Most (87%) rate being a scientist as one of the most prestigious careers, yet 75% can't name a living scientist. Sixty-four percent don't think average Americans are knowledgeable about science, and 76% think it is very important that young people are encouraged to pursue scientific careers, and that more opportunities for these careers are created.

The poll also found that nearly all (97%) think it is important that the U.S. be a global leader in scientific research. Most (97%) also believe scientific research is important to the U.S. economy, as are the biotech and pharmaceutical industries specifically, Ninety-four percent also say investing in scientific research is important in terms of job creation and higher incomes. So, fellow ASTE members, our work is cut out for us as we seek to educate those who would inspire the future scientists and engineers.

The Announcements



Eugene P. Wagner is the Executive Secretary of ASTE. He should be contacted for answers and solutions to membership issues, contact information, and the like.

He may be contacted at:

Eugene P. Wagner, Ph.D.
 Executive Secretary Association for Science Teacher Education
 113 Radcliff Dr.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15237
 phone: 412-720-8699 fax: 412-648-3297
ewagner@pitt.edu

Applications Now Being Sought for

EDITOR

Science Education Section *Contemporary Issues in Technology and Teacher Education* Association for Science Teacher Education

The publications committee of the Association for the Education of Teachers of Science (ASTE) is seeking applications for Editor or Co-Editors of the online journal, ***Contemporary Issues in Technology and Teacher Education (CITE)***. The duration of appointment is for three years, beginning in January, 2008, plus a half-year overlap with the current editor from June, 2007 to December, 2007. Thus the new editor will assume full editing responsibilities of the science education section from January, 2008 to December, 2010.

The *CITE Journal* is an online, peer-reviewed journal, established and jointly sponsored by five professional associations (ASTE, AMTE, NCSS, CEE, and SITE). This is the only joint venture of this kind in the field of teacher education. Each professional association has sole responsibility for editorial review of articles in its discipline. The journal's online medium allows authors to demonstrate the technologies about which they are writing, including video and audio segments, animation, virtual reality, Web links, and simulations. The current issue of the journal may be accessed at <http://www.citejournal.org>.

The CITE Section Editor must be a member in good standing of ASTE. This individual should have expertise in research in science teacher education and applications of technology as well as experience publishing and reviewing manuscripts for professional refereed educational journals. In addition, the editor will be expected to attend annual meetings of ASTE and serve on the ASTE Publications Committee.

CITE holds an annual editors meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Society for Information Technology and Teachers Education (<http://site.aace.org/>). Attendance is encouraged, but not required. The primary editor of the science education section of CITE receives a complementary registration for the conference.

Responsibilities: The CITE Section Editor will:

- ◆ Maintain academic standards that are comparable to those of the *Journal for Science Teacher Education*
- ◆ Target one to two articles for the science education section of each quarterly issue; i.e., four to eight articles per year.

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Editor Call Announcement Cont.

- ◆ Assign manuscript submission to two review board members
- ◆ Consider reviews, decide disposition of manuscripts, and communicate decision with authors
- ◆ Solicit manuscripts for the CITE science education section.
- ◆ Originate the call for and the selection of manuscript reviewers
- ◆ Maintain communication between CITE and ASTE.
- ◆ Maintain correspondence with ASTE reviewers (including annual thank-you letters)
- ◆ Compile statistics and maintain files as appropriate for the section - Ensure that reviewers are thanked publicly on an annual basis.
- ◆ Coordinate, conduct and/or participate in a "Publishing in Science Education" session at the annual ASTE meeting.
- ◆ Submit semi-annual board reports to ASTE through the Publications Committee.

Interested persons should submit a letter of inquiry to the Chair of the CITE Editor Search Committee. Full applications for the position are due by April 30, 2007 and include a cover letter of application, vita(s), and a statement detailing institutional support.

Please send these materials to the Chair of the CITE Editor Search Committee:

Randy L. Bell
Chair CITE Editorial Search Committee
Curry School of Education
University of Virginia
405 Emmet Street South
P.O. Box 400273
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4273

Ph. (434) 924-1380
Email: randybell@virginia.edu

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Call for Nominations for ASTE

Dear Members:

This is the Final Call for nominations for elected positions in ASTE. Please nominate an ASTE member for one of the following positions:

- ⇒ President
- ⇒ Director at Large
- ⇒ Elections Committee

Please e-mail the name of nominee, position nominated, and contact information of nominee to:
atwater@uga.edu. Nominations must be received by Friday, April 13, 2007.

Thanks for your assistance.

Mary M. Atwater
ASTE Elections Committee Chair

Additional Announcements

Applications Now Being Sought for

EDITOR

Journal of Science Teacher Education **Association for Science Teacher Education**

The Publications Committee of the Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE) is seeking applications for an Editor or Editors of the **Journal of Science Teacher Education** (JSTE) presently published by Springer. The duration of the appointment is five years which begins after the 2008 transition year. The new Editor(s) will assume editorial responsibilities of the journal for on January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2013. The new editor is responsible for editing the February 2009 issue starting work on that issue no later than May 2008.

The journal is published six times a year, and serves as our principle mechanism for dissemination of information regarding research, programs, and innovations in science teacher education in the United States and abroad. The articles published in the journal represent the unique interests of the members of ASTE and contribute broadly to the field of science teacher education.

Applicants for the position must have experience in project management, publishing, reviewing documents, and word processing. The Editor or Editors are expected to be active and in good standing in ASTE. A budget will be supplied that covers costs associated with the journal and some travel expenses to ASTE meetings.

The Editor must have been a member of ASTE for at least five years and must have had five years of teaching experience in a university teacher education program prior to appointment as Editor. Institutional support is expected for the incoming Editor(s) and must be verified in writing by the Department Head or Dean.

Those considering making application should submit a brief letter of interest to the Chair of the JSTE Editor Search Committee as soon as possible. Full applications for the position are due by June 30, 2007 and will include a cover letter of application, vita(s), and a statement detailing institutional support. Complete details about the position may be found at <http://TheASTE.org>.

Please send the letter of interest and application packet to the Chair of the JSTE Editor Search Committee:

William F. McComas
Chair JSTE Editor Search Committee
Parks Family Professor of Science Education
College of Education and Health Professions
PEAH 127
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701
mccomas@uark.edu



A reminder: Next year's **ASTE** conference will be held St. Louis.

Stay tuned to the ASTE website for more conference information later this spring.

A message from the National Academy of Engineering EngineerGirl has just launched their essay contest for this year. Students in grades 6-12 can compete for cash prizes on Engineering's Grand Challenges. Information about the competition can be found on the EngineerGirl site below:

<http://www.engineergirl.org/CMS/Contest.aspx>

Janice.Koch@hofstra.edu

Engineering's Grand Challenges Essay Contest

Often the work of engineers can make a big difference in society, and sometimes their work can affect millions or even billions of people. In the last 100 years engineers have changed the world with advances our great grandparents could only have imagined. Technology has allowed us to explore the galaxy, provide safe drinking water and food to millions of people, and communicate across the globe. But the work is not yet finished. The most pressing world needs demand engineers who are creative and persistent. Think about what life will be like on earth in the next 100 years. What do you believe are the most critical human needs? How might engineers contribute to meeting these needs? These are [Engineering's Grand Challenges](#). In 500 to 750 words write about the Grand Challenge that you believe will lead to the most important breakthrough of the 21st century and describe the role that engineers will play in meeting that challenge and building our future.

Who Can Enter?

The contest is open to individual girls and boys.

There are two age categories: grades 6-8 and grades 9-12.

How Do I Enter?

Write an essay of 500 -750 words describing the Grand Challenge that you believe will lead to the most important breakthrough of the 21st century and the role that engineers will play in meeting that challenge. Entries may be submitted in ONE of the following ways:

- ◆ Email attachment to webcontest@nae.edu
- ◆ By regular mail on an IBM formatted 3.5" disk sent to:
Grand Challenges Essay Contest
National Academy of Engineering
500 Fifth Street, NW, Room 1047
Washington, D.C. 20001

- 1 Unfortunately, we will be unable to return your disk to you.
- 2 Entries submitted as attachments or on disk should be in Rich Text Format (.rtf), but will be accepted in Word or WordPerfect format.
- 3 All entries should include the following required information:
 1. Your full name*
 2. Your school's name, and current grade*
 3. Your mailing address*
 4. Your email address*
 5. Topic of your essay
 6. Your essay
 7. A statement that reads: "This submitted essay is the original work of entrant's full name. I, entrant's full name, grant the NAE the right to publish the essay on the EngineerGirl website if it is declared a winner."
 8. A statement from a parent or guardian that reads: "I, parent or guardian's full name, am the parent or guardian of entrant's full name. I certify that the submitted essay is the original work of the entrant, and I grant the NAE the right to publish this essay on the EngineerGirl website if it is declared a winner."

[Continued on the next page](#)

When Is the Deadline?

Entries must be received by May 15, 2007.

What are the Awards?

First-place entries will be published on the EngineerGirl! website and will be awarded \$200. Second-place entries will be awarded \$100. Third-place entries will be awarded \$50. The winners will be announced on July 15, 2007 on the EngineerGirl website.

What are the Contest Guidelines?

- ◆ Essays will be judged on the basis of organization, depth of detail, and use of language by the author. You may wish to preview the [scorecard](#) (see below) for the selection criteria.
- ◆ All essays must be the original work of the author submitting the entry and must not have been published anywhere else.
- ◆ A contestant may enter only one essay.
- ◆ All entries will be read by a panel of judges, whose selections will be final.
- ◆ Entry in the contest grants the NAE non-exclusive rights to publish winning essays in full or in part on the EngineerGirl! website.

Check out last year's Engineering: Improving Our World essay contest winners !

** Personal information is requested from students entering the contest, so that the National Academy of Engineering can contact winners and recognize achievements. This information is not shared with other organizations.*

Engineering's Grand Challenges Essay Contest Scorecard

CONTENT**Subject** (15 points)

Topic is addressed in an original way and includes specific details that clarify ideas

Accuracy and Attention to Detail (15 points)

Facts are consistent; references (including citations of copyrighted material) included as appropriate

Narrative (15 points)

Engages the reader with a unique perspective on the topic, helps the reader understand why the topic is important

EXPRESSION**Organization** (15 points)

Logical and effective placement of details, smooth transitions between main points, good introduction and conclusion

Language (15 points)

Vocabulary and phrasing add interest, demonstrates careful choice of words

Rhythm (15 points)

Writing flows well, can be read aloud with natural expression

MECHANICS**Grammar, Punctuation, & Spelling** (10 points)

Correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation

Total Score (100 points)



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Spring	May 15
Summer	Aug. 15
Fall	Oct. 15
Winter	Feb. 15

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Call for Nominations for ASTE

As an active member in ASTE, we are asking for you to nomi-
nate an ASTE colleague or colleagues for the following offices:

- ✓ President
- ✓ Director at Large
- ✓ Elections Committee

Please email your nominee(s) to Mary M. Atwater

atwater@uga.edu

Please include:

- ⇒ Name of nominee
- ⇒ Position nominated
- ⇒ Contact information for reaching you or the nominee